



MAPC Newsletter

Winter 2010

Phone: 956-1770 Toll Free: 1-877-290-4702 Website: www.mapc.mb.ca Email: info@mapc.mb.ca

Executive Director's Report

With the recent balmy weather experienced throughout the province, it's easy to believe that spring is just around the corner as we quickly approach the MAPC AGM and Conference on April 23 and 24 at the Victoria Inn in Winnipeg. Registration packages are being put together for the MAPC members and will be received in your school communities shortly. You may also download your registration and award package on the renewed MAPC website at www.mapc.mb.ca. *Don't forget—space is limited so take advantage of the early bird registration fees and send it in as soon as possible!*

MAPC participated in a tour of Southwest Manitoba during November and visited parents and administrators in the communities of Pilot Mound, Winkler, Morden, and Morris. It was a great opportunity to visit our membership and school superintendents, as well as introduce parents from each community to MAPC to demonstrate the benefits that MAPC offers to parent groups throughout Manitoba.

On January 23, MAPC Directors met with membership from Winnipeg and the surrounding areas at our Chairperson's Breakfast. This event was very well attended and gave some of the new members a great chance to network with other parent groups, discuss successes and challenges they are facing in their school communities, and learn a bit more about running an effective meeting. We look forward to continuing this tradition!

It has been a tremendous year for MAPC, so far. Membership is growing, the requests for information and formal presentations are increasing, and the recognition and respect that is being shown to our organization is at an all time high! The Board of Directors is being kept very busy to ensure that *your* voice continues to be heard.

Many thanks to our members for continuing to support, promote and enhance meaningful parental involvement and participation in Manitoba schools!

See you at the AGM and Conference!

Naomi Kruse
Executive Director

Canadian Home and School Update (CHSF) Update

Canadian Home and School Federation (CHSF) held a midterm meeting in November 2009 in Montreal, PQ. MAPC Representative and CHSF Western Vice-President, Judith Cameron, was unable to attend due to a number of concerns, shared by the MAPC Board of Directors.

Prior to the Mid-Term meeting date, the MAPC Board of Directors sent a letter to the CHSF Board of Directors, acknowledging Judith Cameron as the designated Manitoba Representative to CHSF. Her nomination as the Western Vice-President to CHSF would be in addition to her role as the MAPC Representative. The CHSF Board of Directors responded that they were not in favor of one member being a provincial representative as well as an executive member and therefore will not recognize her as the MAPC Representative. As a result, the entire MAPC Board of Directors is collectively acting as the current CHSF Representative for Manitoba. ** Please note there is no mention of this in the CHSF Constitution, Bylaws of standing rules, as acknowledged by CHSF.*

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The Manitoba Association of Parent Councils is dedicated to supporting, promoting, and enhancing meaningful involvement and participation of parents in order to improve the education and well-being of children in Manitoba.

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Quote for the day...

"The difference between school and life? In school, you're taught a lesson and then given a test. In life, you're given a test and then taught a lesson."

- Tom Bodett

Dates to Remember

February is Canadian Radio Music Month, Junior Achievement Month, Heart and Stroke Month, National Eating Disorder Month, and Black History Month

February 02—Groundhog Day
February 02—World Wetlands Day
February 09—13—Teacher Staff Appreciation Week (*can vary*)
February 12—28—2010 Vancouver Olympics
February 14—Valentine's Day
February 15—National Flag of Canada Day
February 15—Louis Riel Day
February 19—Women's Institute Day
February 28—Purim

March is Epilepsy, Learning Disabilities, Kidney Month, Liver Disease Month, Nutrition Month, and Red Cross Month

March 08—International Women's Day
March 08—United Nations Day for Women's Rights and International Peace
March 14—Daylight Savings Time
March 09—Commonwealth Day
March 11—14—Canadian Music Week
March 14—20—Canadian Agricultural Safety Week
March 12—21—2010 Paralympic Games
March 17—St. Patrick's Day
March 21—World Poetry Day
March 21—International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
March 21—18 Week of Solidarity with the Peoples Struggling against Racism and Racial Discrimination
March 22—World Water Day
March 27—World Theatre Day
March 30—April 05—Passover

April is National Poetry Month, Cancer Month, Autism Awareness Month, Stay Alert—Stay Safe Month, Dental Health, and Parkinson's Disease Awareness Month

April 01—April Fool's Day
April 02—Good Friday
April 04—Easter Sunday
April 07—World Health Day
April 09—National Day of Remembrance of the Battle at Vimy Ridge
April 12—16—Education Week
April 18-24—National Volunteer Week
April 18—24—Administrative Professionals' Week
April 22—Earth Day
April 23—24 MAPC AGM and Conference
April 23—Canadian Writers' Day
April 28—National Day of Mourning for Persons Killed or Injured in the Workplace
April 28—National Day of Mourning
April 29—International Dance Day

MAPC Board Meeting Discussions

The following is a summary of points questioned and discussed at a recent MAPC Board Meeting, regarding *No Fail Policies*, based on recent media attention given to the subject in Manitoba. If you have any further points you would like to add to this list, please contact the MAPC office by email info@mapc.mb.ca Your points will be presented at the next regular Board meeting.

- Is there more reason for parents to be concerned when students are promoted in early years as well as senior years?
- Do divisions have actual policies in place for promotion when a child is not ready? Or is it an unspoken "norm"?
- Are parents pushing promotion of a student if they are in jeopardy of not graduating?
- Is alternate language being used instead of the term *No Fail*—such as "move forward" on a report card?
- Students end up unprepared for the next level of schooling if they are promoted before they are ready
- Parents have a responsibility to discuss what successful schooling is with their children, so they can recognize the importance of items such as completing work, being on time, and good attendance practices
- There is very little incentive to succeed if students find they can "just get by"
- No fail does not prepare students for the real world
- Are teachers encouraged to pass students who are not successful because they are viewed as a problem?
- Modified credits must be identified and understood as a separate item for children with special learning needs
- Consequences are crucial
- How can a student be looked upon as successful, if the marks given are subjective?
- Every teacher teaches differently, is there a way to guarantee consistency so each student is on a level playing field?
- No fail is unfair to the students who are working at earning their credit fairly
- Historically, it was accepted that if a student was ill-prepared to be promoted to the next level, they weren't. When did this change?
- Are some students still promoted because they are successful in one subject area, even though they are doing poorly in another?
- Some administrators and divisions have very strict guidelines which encourage students to be successful in a variety of ways
- A child's esteem will be more damaged for not being able to keep up with his learning, than if he is not promoted along with his peers.
- Students who are promoted before they are ready create a negative dynamic in the classroom which ends up impacting *all* learners
- The learning gap only widens as the kids age
- Is there a difference between public and private schools and promoting learners before they are ready?
- In high school, credits are the incentive to achieve

Thank you for your continued support!

When Loss and Grief Come to School

**An educational and networking opportunity for
EDUCATORS, COUNSELORS, PARENTS, YOUTH,
VOLUNTEERS, YOUTH WORKERS,
... anyone touched by a grieving child or teen**

Two-Day Workshop

- Dynamics of grief
- How losses influence the young
- Resources and strategies to help



**Facilitated by
Dr. Alan D. Wolfelt**

Author, educator, and grief counselor

Director of the Center for Loss and Life Transitions
Fort Collins, Colorado

Adult rate: \$180 both days \$100 one day only

Junior/senior high school student rate:
\$50 both days \$25 one day only



hospice &
palliative care
manitoba

February 24 & 25, 2010
Victoria Inn, 1808 Wellington Ave Winnipeg

For more information or to register, contact:
Hospice & Palliative Care Manitoba
Phone 1-204-889-8525 Toll Free 1-800-539-0295
info@manitobahospice.mb.ca
www.manitobahospice.ca

H1N1 Updates

MAPC strongly encourages parents who have concerns and questions about the H1N1 flu virus, to consult with their school administrator and/or division about the pandemic preparedness plans that are already in place and how to help ensure communication methods are reaching *all* families in their communities.

For further information, please refer to the following websites:

Frequently asked questions for families of children attending schools in Manitoba—

www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/flu/h1n1_qa_school_parents.pdf

Frequently asked questions about the H1N1 flu virus—

www.gov.mb.ca/asset_library/en/flu/flu_faq.pdf

Guidelines for pandemic preparedness—

www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/flu/index.html

Self care for Influenza—

www.edu.gov.mb.ca/k12/flu/self_care.pdf

Rotary Club Career Symposium

The Rotary Career Symposium provides a dynamic venue where students and adults gain valuable information about various education and employment opportunities in Manitoba, and is being held at the Winnipeg Convention Centre on April 7 and 8. Please visit www.career-symposium.org for more information.

Did you know?

*That **Teacher Staff Appreciation Week (TSAW)**, while recognized as a week to show appreciation for the work done by educators throughout Canada, is not officially recognized in Manitoba?*

This gives each parent group in Manitoba the autonomy to choose a day or week during the school year (in consultation with the school administrator) to show its appreciation for the hard work done in providing our children the best public education possible.

CHSF, cont'd from page 1

A second letter was sent to the CHSF Board of Directors prior to the November Mid-Term, detailing a number of concerns the MAPC Board of Directors had with the CHSF proposed budget line items as well as a number of other items identified by MAPC. MAPC has received acknowledgment that the letter was received, but further notice regarding these items has not been forthcoming.

An email poll vote from CHSF was received by MAPC for the second attempt at approval for the aforementioned budget (with modest modifications made), with a deadline of January 22, 2010 for submission. The MAPC Board of Directors voted against the proposed budget as the concerns previously raised by MAPC were not adequate enough to support the vote. At this time, it is still not known whether the vote was passed or defeated.

Since the CHSF Mid-Term, frequent requests have been made to CHSF regarding the questions outlined in the original correspondence be addressed so that fair and accurate information can be presented to MAPC members, demonstrating the value of CHSF membership paid for by MAPC on an annual basis. MAPC will continue—to the best of its ability—to gather this information for the membership, as directed at the MAPC 2009 Annual General Meeting.

Upcoming Events

2010 MAPC Annual General Meeting and Conference

Our Children: Their Challenges *How their challenges become our challenges.*

Friday, April 23 and Saturday, April 24, 2010
Victoria Inn, Winnipeg

Featuring Keynote Speaker Dr. Gabor Mate, co-author of “Hold on to Your Kids”.

Conference Registration Packages have been sent to all MAPC members and the Annual General Meeting Voting Packages is being sent to all MAPC eligible voting members in mid-February.

Space is limited so take advantage of the early bird registration fees and send it in as soon as possible!

Don't forget to consider a worthy nomination who demonstrates outstanding parent volunteerism in your school community for the Judy Aiken Memorial Award! Call the MAPC office for more information or visit our website at www.mapc.mb.ca

MAPC Board of Directors

Executive Board

Judith Cameron, President
Alanna Rawluk, Vice-President
Linda Meads, Treasurer
Khalid Mahmood, Secretary

Directors

Marilyn Kolody
Sharon Machinski
Ethel Raine
Martin Simmons
Doug Zintel

Winnipeg Office

Naomi Kruse—Executive Officer and
Advocacy Project
Coordinator
Jill Miner—Administrative Assistant



**Celebrate Manitoba
Education Week
April 12—16, 2010!**



Why Does Membership With MAPC Matter?

By registering as a member of Manitoba Association of Parent Councils (MAPC), you continue to ensure that the parental voice in Manitoba's education system is carried to the government and provincial education organizations.

Membership benefits also include:

- information and professional development opportunities for parent councils
- issues to discuss with your parent council for policy consideration
- An Annual General Meeting and Conference where *you* have the opportunity to vote on behalf of *your* parent council about matters concerning parents and education systems in Manitoba.

Call the MAPC office at (204) 956-1770 or toll free at 1-877-290-4702, or visit our website at www.mapc.mb.ca, to learn more about *your* membership with Manitoba Association of Parent Councils.

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